United Nations A/57/114/Add.1

General Assembly

Distr.: General
24 July 2002
English
Original: Arabic/English/Spanish

Fifty-seventh session
Item 67 (g) of the provisional agenda*
General and complete disarmament

Missiles

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

Contents

	Page
Replies received from Member States	2
Cuba	2
Denmark (on behalf of the European Union)	3
Panama	4
Tunisia	4

* A/57/150.

02-49721 (E) 160802

Replies received from Member States

Cuba

[Original: Spanish]
[9 July 2002]

1. In recent times, a number of developments in the world have been accompanied by an increase in the number of international debates on the issue of missiles in all its aspects. Cuba considers all efforts to reduce and eliminate situations that pose a threat to international peace and security and to promote peaceful coexistence between the peoples of the world to be legitimate. Indeed, that has been the raison d'être of the United Nations since it was established more than 50 years ago. However, the international situation has changed radically and these changes have affected all spheres of international relations, including disarmament and arms control, and in particular the way that the issue of missiles in all its aspects is handled.

2. The United Nations is the appropriate multilateral forum in which to tackle the issue of missiles in all its aspects. The discussions should encompass not only military issues but also the peaceful application of missiles, particularly ballistic missiles which are useful in the exploration and use of outer space for the benefit of humanity.

3. The security considerations associated to the issue are as important as those relating to the strengthening of international cooperation for the use of missiles for peaceful purposes; the two are interrelated and mutually reinforcing.

4. Cuba is following with interest the process initiated by the General Assembly for dealing with the issue of missiles in all its aspects and it is looking forward to the outcome of the deliberations of the panel of experts established for that purpose in accordance with the mandate given by the General Assembly. Once that phase is completed, the findings should be made available in good time to all Member States so that all interested parties can consider and weigh them and make comments or assessments or suggestions; this should be followed by an open and comprehensive debate on the issue, including the aspect of the link between disarmament and development.

5. It is essential to tackle the missiles issue in a comprehensive, non-discriminatory and balanced manner, one that reaches beyond narrow and selective approximations and does not refer only to a part of the issue as the sole viable alternative. In other words, it is necessary to consider not only the non-proliferation aspects but also those relating to disarmament and international cooperation in the sphere of peaceful uses.

6. It is widely acknowledged that there is a link between ballistic missiles and weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons, the use of which generally involves the parallel development of missile construction programmes. There is a direct relationship between the eradication of weapons of mass destruction, primarily nuclear weapons, and the finding of ways to prevent the continued use of ballistic missiles for military purposes.

7. Attention should also be given to ballistic missiles armed with powerful conventional warheads.

8. Cuba is not in favour of basing disarmament and arms control solely on non-proliferation measures, since this tends to mean that the rights and obligations of each State vary according to such things as the State's power, state of technological advancement and status in international forums. Moreover, it must be remembered that the missiles issue does not have the same impact everywhere in the world and that safety issues vary from one region to another; this makes it essential to take regional security variables into account when examining the missiles issue in all its aspects, both as regards missiles in the context of weapons of mass destruction and as regards conventional weapons.

9. The concerns expressed in regard to the dangers of weapons of mass destruction are reasonable. Remaining stockpiles are sufficient to exterminate the human race several times over. Cuba reiterates its long-standing position that these weapons, including their delivery systems, should be totally eliminated by means of a phased programme within a given time frame.

10. We understand that since ballistic missiles have a dual technological use it is not possible to ban them completely; however, we feel that it would be a step forward if we could ultimately limit their use to

peaceful purposes. Universalization of the relevant international conventions, although important, would not be enough. It would also be necessary to design concrete measures to promote the social and economic development of all countries, particularly of the developing States. These measures could include, for example, adoption of measures for the widespread application of the findings of research derived from the peaceful use of outer space; joint research for peaceful purposes; transfer of related technologies; financial assistance for the development of peaceful projects; and the elimination of all barriers, whether economic or political, to the development of peaceful international cooperation in that sphere.

11. Cuba is of the view that it is very contradictory, on the one hand, to promote measures designed to curb the development of ballistic missile programmes while, on the other, designing and undertaking the installation of new anti-missile defence systems which, in practice, further contribute to the proliferation of these means and, what is even worse, would be a further stimulus to the arms race.

12. Recent history has demonstrated that the most viable formula for undertaking disarmament and arms control measures is a system involving interrelated elements of disarmament, non-proliferation, verification and international cooperation for peaceful purposes. This remains the best option and the place to do this is in the United Nations General Assembly and the Conference on Disarmament.

13. In recent years the international community has witnessed the efforts made within the context of the United Nations to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects and the adoption of a programme of action to that end. The methodology used in that case could perhaps serve as an example for dealing with the missiles issue within the United Nations.

Denmark (on behalf of the European Union)

[Original: English]
[11 July 2002]

1. The States Members of the European Union abstained in the vote on resolution 56/24 B, not so much because of the contents of the resolution, much of which we agree with, but rather because of what was not included. In our view, the resolution does not give due attention to the proliferation of ballistic missiles, and in particular those capable of carrying weapons of mass destruction. This is an urgent problem and one that deserves our highest attention.

2. The European Union notes with concern that strategies of acquisition or development of ballistic missiles are often pursued as a response to regional tension, despite the adverse consequences for regional as well as global security and stability that such actions may provoke. While reaffirming our commitment to rigorous export controls as well as our support for regional peace initiatives as important ways of addressing the problem of missile proliferation, we also note that such efforts cannot be a substitute for global, multilateral approaches.

3. The European Union thus sees an urgent need for the development of globally accepted norms and practices in support of ballistic missile non-proliferation, analogous to the norms and practices laid down in the international regimes and arrangements designed to curtail the proliferation of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons, as well as to prevent destabilizing accumulations of armaments in areas of crisis or tension. Consequently, the European Union strongly supports the process of universalization of the draft International Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation. Various initiatives have been undertaken in the fight against the proliferation of ballistic missiles, including the above-mentioned draft Code of Conduct. While it is not the only initiative under consideration, it is in our view the most concrete and advanced one in the field, and as such represents the best chance to achieve results in the short term. It is an important first step to address the urgent problem of missile proliferation, without precluding more ambitious initiatives such as the project for a global control system for the non-proliferation of missiles and missile technologies. The broad participation in the dialogue established on the draft code at the meetings held in Paris in February 2002 and in Madrid in June 2002 was an encouraging sign. We wish for the continuation of this process, which will remain transparent and inclusive. Once it has been adopted as a politically binding instrument, the Code could be of interest to the United Nations.

4. The European Union welcomed the establishment of a United Nations panel of governmental experts, in

accordance with General Assembly resolution 55/33 A of 20 November 2000, as a new mechanism in the multilateral consideration of the issue of missiles. We note that the panel has already met twice and that one more session is to be held in July in order to complete its mandate.

5. The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union and associated countries Cyprus, Malta and Turkey and the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Norway align themselves with the common reply of the States members of the European Union on General Assembly resolution 56/24 B.

Panama

[Original: Spanish]
[24 June 2002]

1. The Republic of Panama recognizes the danger posed by missiles to international peace and strategic stability of missiles, since they can be used to deliver nuclear, chemical or biological weapons. Panama therefore supports any initiative for the elimination of these weapons of mass destruction.

2. Although in many cases qualitative or quantitative missile reductions have been undertaken unilaterally by countries possessing such weapons, Panama is convinced that only through formal treaties, whether bilateral or multilateral, can effective progress be made in efforts to achieve disarmament at the worldwide level.

Tunisia

[Original: Arabic]
[24 June 2002]

1. In paragraph 3 of resolution 56/24 B, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States on the issue of missiles in all its aspects and to submit a report thereon to the General Assembly.

2. In that connection, we wish to point out that Tunisia does not possess or produce missiles of any type. As a matter of course, it supports a ban on the production and development of such weapons and thus also on the creation of mechanisms to monitor the production and use of rockets for peaceful purposes in keeping with the efforts being made for disarmament at the international level.